

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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-----094352 050741Z /13

R 041218Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0302
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
USDAO KINSHASA ZAIRE
DIA WASHDC

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STATE FOR AF/MOOSE/HARROP/SALAZAR

DIA FOR AH AND AH8

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, LILLIAN) (MOOSE, RICHARD)
SUBJECT: C-12 SUPPORT

1. OUR NO-SHOW PERFORMANCE ON THE SCHEDULED C-12 SUPPORT MISSION FOR MISS LILLIAN AND ASST. SECRETARY MOOSE PROMPTED AN IMMEDIATE REVIEW OF EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE FINAL, PAINFUL DECISION. AFTER CAREFUL REVIEW OF THESE EVENTS, I CAN ONLY SAY THAT TECHNICAL DECISIONS WERE MADE PROFESSIONALLY AND CORRECTLY BUT WERE OVERCOME BY FORCE MAJEURE. I SUBMIT MY DEEP, SINCERE APOLOGY FOR THE INCONVENIENCE CAUSED TO THE PRINCIPALS AND SUPPORTING STAFFS OF THE MISSIONS.

2. FOR BACKGROUND, OUR MECHANICAL WOES WITH DAO'S C-12A BEGAN ALMOST EXACTLY A YEAR AGO. THE PORT ENGINE DEVELOPED A PROBLEM AND WAS REPLACED. THE NEW ENGINE
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FITTED WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2, WAS THE FIFTH REPLACEMENT OF THE PORTSIDE ENGINE. IRONICALLY IT IS THE SAME MOTOR (RECONDITIONED, OF COURSE) INITIALLY REMOVED ONE YEAR AGO.

3. THE CURRENT PROBLEM WAS DISCOVERED JULY 25, WEEKS AFTER OUR COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT MISS LILLIAN AND

ASST. SECRETARY MOOSE. THE C12A WAS SCHEDULED THAT DAY TO TAKE MEMBERS OF MY PARTY SOUTH TO GREENVILLE WHERE THE 131ST LIBERIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS WERE TO BE HELD. TAKEOFF WAS ABORTED AT THE LAST POSSIBLE MOMENT AND FOR NEXT TWO DAYS THE DAO CREW AND BEECHCRAFT REPRESENTATIVE WORKED ALMOST AROUND THE CLOCK TO LOCATE THE PROBLEM. A PROBLEM WAS FOUND AND DURING THE NEXT TWO DAYS, DESPITE POOR WEATHER CONDITIONS, THE AIRCRAFT WAS SUCCESSFULLY TEST FLOWN ON TWO OCCASIONS FOR FOUR HOURS AND PRONOUNCED FULLY OPERATIONAL. THE AIRCRAFT WAS COMPLETELY CHECKED OUT AND SUCCESSFULLY TEST FLOWN WITH NO RECURRENCE OF THE PROBLEM.

4. FOR PROFESSIONAL AS WELL AS SUBSTANTIAL ECONOMIC REASONS THE DECISION TO REASSUME SUPPORT RESPONSIBILITY APPEARED SOUND AT THE TIME. HOWEVER, THE GREMLIN HAD NOT LEFT THE AIRCRAFT, THE FLIGHT WAS ABORTED JUST AFTER TAKEOFF ON JULY 31 LEAVING THE OFFICIAL PARTY IN THE LURCH AND LEAVING US EMBARRASSED AND CHAGRINED. AGAIN, PLEASE ACCEPT OUR MOST HUMBLE APOLOGIES FOR ALL INCONVENIENCE CAUSED BY THE NO-SHOW.

5. I ALSO WISH TO RECORD MY APPRECIATION TO DAO KINSHASA FOR ACCEPTING THE CHALLENGE FOR THAT PART OF THE MISSION WHICH REMAINED SALVAGABLE.

CARTER

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NNN

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